



(2)

PATENT APPLICATION

#19

DM

06/25/03

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

April 2, 2003

Applicant(s): Yoshio SATO  
For : DRIVING UNIT OF A WELDING EQUIPMENT  
Serial No. : 09/533 554 Group: 2834  
Confirmation No.: 8275  
Filed : March 22, 2000 Examiner: Perez  
International Application No. : N/A  
International Filing Date : N/A  
Atty. Docket No.: OPS C486  
Notice of Allowance Mailed: March 19, 2003

Box Issue Fee  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**APPLICANT'S INTERVIEW SUMMARY AND  
COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Sir:

Applicant appreciates the allowance of Claims 1, 3-5, 12-15 and 20 in the above-identified application.

The Interview Summary provided with the Notice of Allowance requests a summary of the substance of the interview. Interviews were conducted with the Examiner on January 22, 2003 and January 23, 2003. In the interviews, arguments were presented against the "finality" of the November 25, 2002 Office Action. Further, arguments were presented against the rejection under 35 USC § 103 of Claims 3-5 as being unpatentable over Wolfbauer, U.S. Patent No. 5 099 161 in view of Lewis, U.S. Patent No. 2 030 260.

The substantive arguments regarding the "finality" of the final Office Action and some of the arguments against the rejection of claims under 35 USC § 103 were restated in Applicant's Response After Final Rejection dated January 27, 2003.

Applicant's proposed draft claims faxed to the USPTO on January 22, 2003 included narrowing amendments for the last paragraph of Claims 3 and 4. Claim 5 included an amendment narrowing the claimed "friction force". In discussions, the narrowing amendments were described as further limiting the claimed invention to further distinguish the applied prior art references.

After it became clear that the proposed amendments and arguments based thereon would not overcome the prior art, the proposed amendments were withdrawn in favor of the pending claims. Thus, the narrowing amendments for Claims 3-5 were not formally presented.

The Notice of Allowance includes an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Applicant agrees with the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance with respect to independent Claim 1. However, independent Claims 3-5, 12 and 20 recite difference features and do not include all of the features recited in Claim 1.

In conclusion, independent Claims 3-5, 12 and 20 are clearly allowable for different reasons than the reasons set forth in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian R. Tumm

Brian R. Tumm

BRT/km

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL  
& TANIS, P.C.  
2026 Rambling Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-1631  
Phone: (269) 381-1156  
Fax: (269) 381-5465

Dale H. Thiel  
David G. Boutell  
Ronald J. Tanis  
Terryence F. Chapman  
Mark L. Maki  
David S. Goldenberg  
Sidney B. Williams, Jr.  
Liane L. Churney  
Brian R. Tumm  
Tricia R. Cobb  
Robert J. Sayfie

Reg. No. 24 323  
Reg. No. 25 072  
Reg. No. 22 724  
Reg. No. 32 549  
Reg. No. 36 589  
Reg. No. 31 257  
Reg. No. 24 949  
Reg. No. 40 694  
Reg. No. 36 328  
Reg. No. 44 621  
Reg. No. 37 714

Encl: Postal Card